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UNCLAS PARIS 001520

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SUBJECT: France and Brazil Join Forces for "Bold and Audacious"

Copenhagen

¶11. (U) SUMMARY: On Saturday, November 14, French President Sarkozy and Brazilian President Lula da Silva held a press conference in Paris to announce an agreement on a "Common Position on Climate Change," guided by the principles of fairness and equity. At the press conference, President Sarkozy said that through extensive travel over the next several weeks he would promote a coalition of countries in Latin America, Europe, Africa and part of Asia to support the common position in Copenhagen. Sarkozy rejected a statement of principle as an acceptable outcome in Copenhagen, insisting on some legal agreement. He also called upon the United States to "be at the height of its responsibilities" in Copenhagen. Text of the Common Position in English and text and video of the press conference in French are available at <http://www.elysee.fr>
END SUMMARY

¶12. (U) On Saturday, November 14 French President Sarkozy welcomed Brazilian President Lula, en route to the FAO World Summit on Food Security in Rome. They issued a common position on climate change which pledged the governments to work together for a global response guided by "fairness and equity". Specifically, they called upon Annex I countries to adopt "new and ambitious" greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets in line with their historical responsibilities and capabilities. They will support a registry for measuring, reporting and verifying (MRV) both nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) by developing countries and (financial) support received by developing countries, thus channeling more money to the developing world. Also, they agree on the need for establishing a World Environmental Organization (WEO) to "give coherence" to actions, with impetus to be given in Copenhagen so the WEO could be established at Rio plus 20 in Rio de Janeiro in 2012.

¶13. (U) To build consensus on this joint position, French President Sarkozy plans to travel extensively. At his press conference he implied that German Chancellor Merkel and Danish Prime Minister Rasmussen agree with his plan. At the end of November he will go as UK Prime Minister Brown's guest to the Commonwealth Ministers meeting in Tobago, where he plans to talk to India. He also would attend a possible meeting of Amazon River Basin countries in Manaus, Brazil. Finally, he would make efforts to bring along some African countries. Thus Sarkozy hopes to arrive in Copenhagen at the head of an impressive coalition of countries from Europe, Latin America, Africa, and parts of Asia.

¶14. (U) The French press has played up Sarkozy's apparent criticism of the U.S. position. When asked if he would accept a statement of principles from Copenhagen, Sarkozy dismisses this idea as contrary to the position of France. Holding up Brazil as the first major emerging economy stating its position that it would commit to reducing its greenhouse gases, Sarkozy says that, "we will not accept that some countries agree to these commitments, and others say, 'we will see tomorrow.'" He then immediately adds, "you know the friendship that France feels for the U.S., and the confidence I

have in President Obama. But the first economy in the world ought to be at the height of its responsibilities."

RIVKIN